

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the subject application be preliminarily amended as provided in the foregoing amendment prior to calculation of the filing fees. Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner to consider the foregoing amended claims.

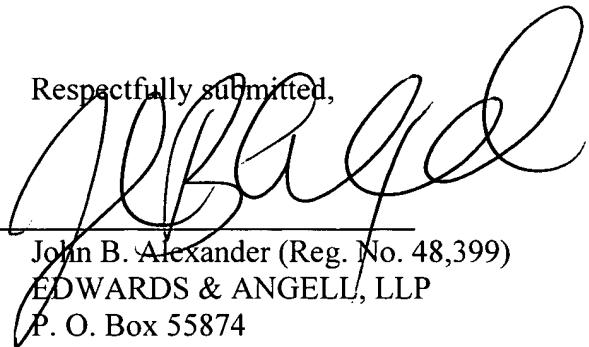
Claims 2, 9-18, 26-29, 43-44, 47, 49, and 55 have been amended to reduce claim fees and to comply with 37 CFR 1.75(c) rules regarding multiple dependent claim format. Thus, after amendment claims 1-55 are pending in the instant application.

Although it is not believed that any additional fees are needed to consider this submission, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Date: August 25, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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